reduction of the speed but soon found the Sky Bus going into dynamic instability hitting one of the columns resulting in the said accident. During mishap, late Shri T. Babu, Fitter, Konkan Railway Corporation expired and two persons Shri Laxmi Narayan, Engineer, Kernex Microsystems India Ltd. and Ramchandra Murthy, AC Mechanic, South Western Railway were injured.

An enquiry by a Committee consisting of four Heads of the Department of Konkan Railway assisted by Prof. S.C. Lakkad, Deputy Director of Indian Institute of Technology, Pawai and Austrian Engineer has been ordered by Managing Director, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. to go into the details of the accident. The inquiry report is expected to be finalized shortly and further action shall be taken accordingly.

(c) Fresh review on the safety aspect of the project shall be taken after the report of the inquiry Committee ordered by Managing Director, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. is finalised.

Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has constituted a Committee in December, 2003 under the chairmanship of Shri E.V. Indiresan to examine the feasibility of establishing and operating Sky Bus metro service in Indian cities. The terms of reference of this Committee are as under:

(i) To examine the techno-economic and financial feasibility of the Sky Bus metro system.

(ii) To ascertain the safety of the system.

(iii) To critically evaluate novel system component, such as suspended rail technology, traversing systems, etc.

(iv) To critically evaluate the integration of different technologies.

(v) Any other matter considered relevant by the Committee.

Stampede at New Delhi railway station

†*54. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

SHRI PYARE LAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of persons lost their lives at the New Delhi Railway Station as a result of stampede;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps Government propose to take to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 13.11.2004, Train No. 2388 Dn. Jan Sadharan Exp. scheduled to start at 1510 hrs. was placed at Platform No. 3 at 1100 hrs., and the doors were opened at 1210 hrs. There was heavy rush at New Delhi Railway Station due to Chhat Festival and Id towards Bihar. While crowd was descending to Platform No. 3 to board Jan Sadharan Express, suddenly an elderly woman, due to pressure of rush, slipped down on the landing of Foot Over Bridge of Platform No. 2/3. Consequently, some more passengers panicked and a stampede started which resulted in stumbling of some more passengers.

5 ladies, including one 14 years old girl unfortunately, succumbed to their injuries. Of the remaining 10 injured, 2 who were having convulsions were shifted to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. All the others were provided proper treatment at Northern Railway Central Hospital. One doctor was specially deputed at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital to look after the injured and all the medicines were made available for the injured admitted in Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

(c) and (d) A fact-finding enquiry was ordered by the General Manager/ Northern Railway by a committee consisting of Chief Traffic Manager, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime & Railways), Addl. Chief Security Commissioner/Railway Protection Force and Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations) Delhi.

The enquiry by the above Committee revealed that the incident could only be taken as an unfortunate isolated incident and there was no lapse on anybody's part which would have caused the lady passenger to fall. Therefore, the Committee held no one responsible for the incident.

(e) Following steps are proposed to avert such incidents of over crowding and stampede:—

(i) Decongestion of major stations by originating/terminating Holiday Special Trains from alternative stations.

(ii) Installing comprehensive Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV).

(iii) Development of additional terminals in Delhi area.

(iv) Construction of additional Foot Over Bridges (FOB) wherever feasible at New Delhi Station.

(v) Implementing plan of construction of new building on Ajmeri Gate side of New Delhi Station.

E-tickets

*55. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to launch e-tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is apprehension that these e-tickets might be misused; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A pilot project is proposed to be started on selected pairs of Shatabdi Express trains. It will enable the passengers to get their reservations booked through Internet and occupy their reserved seats on the basis of a computer-generated slip.

(c) and (d) The pilot project will have adequate safeguards, to protect the interests of the Railways and passengers, as under:

(i) Passenger will be required to carry an identity card.

(ii) Computer reservation system software will have additional safeguards inbuilt.

(iii) Refund safeguards have also been stipulated in the scheme.

The results of the pilot project trials will be duly scrutinized and assessed before expanding the scheme.